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2013-01-09

## Xavier University Newswire

Xavier University (Cincinnati, Ohio)

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Columnist Taylor Fulkerson bids adios to Newswire as he leaves for a semester of service in Nicaragua. Read his column for more on the upcoming trip.

See **OP-ED** | Page 5



Want to know how SGA is doing on their platform? Staff writer Andrew Koch has the details!

See **CAMPUS NEWS** | Page 4

# The Xavier University NEWSWIRE

January 9, 2013

Volume XCVIII

Issue 14

## Crosstown Classic 2013



Newswire Photos by Jack Hatterschide

## Semester checklist for graduating seniors

BY MOLLY BOES  
Managing Editor

As seniors begin their final semester at Xavier, there are some things that have to be done before they can graduate.

### Apply for Graduation

The form is available under the Commencement tab of the Portal or the Registrar's website. Applications can be turned in at the Registrar's Office in the Musketeer Mezzanine and are due Jan. 18. A \$50 fee will be billed to the student's Bursar bill. An additional late fee will be applied to late applications.

### Look at Young Alumni Options

This year's class will be given the opportunity to donate \$10 a month for the first 10 months following graduation and can become a member of the 1831 Society.

### Update Contact Information

Under the Commencement tab of the Portal, students can update their contact information in order to receive information from Xavier following graduation.

### Order Caps and Gowns

The last day to order caps and gowns is April 7 and pricing varies depending on what the student purchases. The website for ordering caps and gowns is available under the Commencement tab of the portal.

### Check Bursar Account

Students' Bursar account balances are available on the Portal. Students should periodically check their balances to make sure their balance is \$0.

### Take Xavier's Graduate Survey

The survey is available under the Commencement tab on the Portal.

### Pick up Alumni All Card

Students can pick up their Alumni All Card at the All Card Center in the Musketeer Mezzanine from April 1 through May 10.

All of these items can be found under seniors' Commencement tabs on the Portal website as well as more details regarding the items.







## ATTENTION XU STUDENTS

**WED. JAN. 9 – 7:30PM**

**Best of the 90's Night**

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- \$1 Beers

**TUE. JAN. 15 – 7:30PM**

**Neon Night**

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- \$2 24-ounce Beers

**THU. JAN. 31 – 7:30PM**

**Greek Night**

- Wear your frat/sorority letters!
- \$1 Beers

**TUE. FEB. 12 – 7:30PM**

**Nascar Night**

- Cash Prize for fan with best Nascar attire!
- \$2 24-ounce Beers

**TUE. FEB. 26 – 7:30PM**

**Country Night**

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- \$2 24-ounce Beers

**WED. MAR. 6 – 7:30PM**

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# Xavier to host seventh annual Dance Marathon

BY DAVID MAXWELL  
Staff Writer

Xavier students will participate in the seventh annual XU Dance Marathon on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The marathon, held in O'Connor Sports Center, will take place between 3 and 9 p.m. Participants will dance the entire six hours with breaks for snacks

and meals.

The goal of the XU Dance Marathon is to raise money for Cincinnati Children's Hospital through the Children's Miracle Network.

The Cincinnati radio station Q102 has volunteered to DJ this years' marathon, which will operate under the theme of "Dancing Through the Decades" and will feature free

food, games, prizes and hours of dancing.

In addition, each year the XU Dance Marathon features several families who attend and share their stories of how Cincinnati Children's Hospital has helped them.

"We are very excited for the event. We are trying out a lot of new things to incorporate this year to add on to the favorites of past years," co-chair for the XU Dance Marathon Emily Roell said.

There is a \$5 admission fee for the event, but students have the opportunity gain admission for free if they raise at least \$20 through the XU Dance Marathon fundraising page.

XU Dance Marathon will be advertising on campus using fliers. They will also have a table in Gallagher during the weeks leading up to the marathon with more information on how to register and fundraise.

Students can register and donate to the event at [www.helpmakemiracles.com/event/xavierdm](http://www.helpmakemiracles.com/event/xavierdm)

# XSASA makes plans for coming semester

BY HOLLIS CONNERS  
Staff Writer

Xavier Students Against Sexual Assault (XSASA) is preparing a number of events to raise awareness in the coming months to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness Month and V-day (a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls.)

XSASA hopes to work with other clubs such as the Marketing Club, Alliance, G.O.A.L. and the Women's Center to bring a number of events to campus, especially in April, which is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is similar to the mission statement of XSASA – to raise awareness of sexual violence and to educate the public about the prevention of sexual violence.

XSASA is also planning to contribute to a V-day event. V-day promotes events that take place in various cities to raise awareness, raise money and revive other anti-violence organizations.

There is a major focus on organizations having to do with

stopping violence related to rape, battery, incest and sex slavery.

Along with V-day and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, XSASA is looking to get a speaker from the charity Jane Doe No More, which looks towards ending sexual violence and wants to change the public's perspective on the individual victims of this type of violence.

XSASA is trying to get the founder to come to campus and share her personal experience of being sexually assaulted as a child with Xavier students and discuss with them how she learned to live with it.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is a campaign in which men take part in a sponsored walk wearing high heels. It is designed to involve men in the fight against sexual violence.

XSASA hopes that the walk will encourage a more diverse audience than ever to be more aware about the seriousness about sexual violence.

For more information about getting involved, visit XSASA's page on Facebook or follow them @xsasa on Twitter

Ed Morley, Campus News Editor  
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# SGA sets second semester resolutions

BY ANDREW KOCH  
Staff Writer

With a new year and a new semester come new year resolutions, and the executives of Xavier's student government have made theirs. Student Government Association

(SGA) president Seth Walsh and vice presidents Kristin Sanfilippo and Matt Morefield feel they still have plenty of work to do before their terms expire in early April.

Specifically, Walsh and his team said that their primary hope this semester is to improve communication between students as well as to increase dialogue with students and the administration.

One area of focus (to this end) is the inclusion of a campus-wide weekly newsletter highlighting events and headlines related to the Xavier community. Walsh hopes that such a publication, distributed via e-mail, would mirror a similar newsletter sent to all Xavier faculty each day and would more easily spread messages to Xavier students.

Walsh believes there is a need for more places for public postings without Alter's well-used bulletin boards.

As a result, his administration is working closely with the Physical Plant to introduce two or three additional information kiosks scattered throughout campus which would display information

about events available to students. Walsh hopes that the kiosks will be operational this April.

These kiosks would also be equipped with digital signs, a facet of Xavier communication that the Walsh administration hopes will

consolidate digital signage to create one uniform system that can be accessed across campus.

In addition to the projects they have planned to complete this spring, SGA has already completed a number of their campaign's

the creation of the Alternative Service Program (ASP), a new disciplinary option for first time student offenders with documentation that allows them to perform community service instead of paying a fine.

have opted for the community service since the program was implemented last October. This year, SGA also developed a new program that allocates \$15,000 of SGA funding to approved student and faculty propositions.

The first round of projects, which received \$88,000 worth of proposals, resulted in improvements to the sound system in Gallagher Student Center's theatre, the creation of a graphic art design studio and late-night programs through the Student Activities Council, set to be completed by early April.

Given the enthusiastic student response to the funding, the executives are considering opening a second round of applications for SGA funding in the coming weeks.

In addition to the creation of these student-inspired projects, Walsh encourages students to recognize the SGA executives as their avenue to change and to speak out about any issues they may be having with life on Xavier's campus.

"I hope [the students create] more student body committees based on real issues...we want to help students with their problems," Walsh said. "We didn't run [for office] for the title. We did it for the job."

Jenny Mendoza, Campus News Editor  
Phone: 773-415-6448  
NewsWire-News@xavier.edu



SGA Executives (pictured left to right) Kristin Sanfilippo, Seth Walsh, and Matt Morefield.

NewsWire File  
Photo

Walsh

considers the ASP model, which to his knowledge is unique to Xavier, to be his administration's greatest success and estimates that between 20 and 30 students

aid in disseminating important information.

While currently each building's department operates their signing independently, Walsh hopes to

platform goals in the fall semester.

Some of these projects, listed on their website in their Executive Mid-Year Report, include changes to the campus shuttle system and

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## SGA Project Updates

**1** Senator Dziedzic is hosting a Technology Day on January 16th. Members of the university IT department will be in attendance to explain new developments with Xavier technology and answer any questions. Contact Drew Dziedzic for more details.

**2** Senator Savercool will be holding a student parent and babysitter mixer. All students with children or who would like to be babysitters are welcome. Please contact Meghan Savercool for more information.

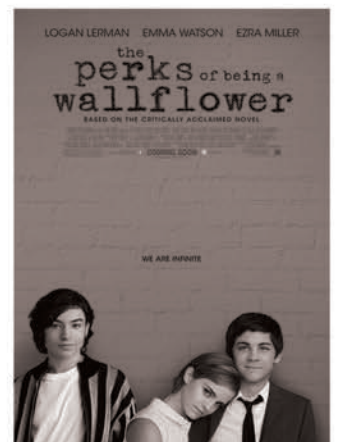
**3** Senator Hinson is creating a Campus Conservation Competition, which is a competition to reduce the amount of energy used in each dorm. From March 4 through April 22, the residence halls will compete against one another to conserve the most energy. Please contact Erin Hinson for details.

**4.** Finally, the Executives, Senate, and SAC wish to welcome all Xavier students back for another great semester!

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES COUNCIL Upcoming Events

**1/17 - Open Mic Night** featuring a performance by So Long Solo | 6:30pm in the Clocktower Lounge  
[www.facebook.com/solongsolo](http://www.facebook.com/solongsolo)

**1/17-19 - Late Night Movie: The Perks of Being a Wallflower** | 11:00 pm in the GSC theater





## XAVIER NEWSWIRE

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www.thexunewswire.com

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One copy of the Xavier *Newswire*, distributed on campus, is free per person per week. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Xavier University is an academic community committed to equal opportunity for all persons.

## Staff Talk

What is your New Years Resolution?



To be the tallest woman in the world.

Meredith Francis, Copy-Editor



To become a superhero... and save the world.

Rachael Harris, Editor-in-Chief



Be awesome.

Molly Boes, Managing Editor



Probably have some idea what I'm going to do with my life.

Peter Adams, Op-Ed Editor



I resolve not to make any resolutions.

Matt Coniglio, Asst. Op-Ed Editor



To be more open-minded.

Jenny Mendoza, Campus News Editor

## A farewell of sorts

Sometimes when I'm reading a novel, a short story, a poem or a philosophical essay, I ask myself, "Does this even matter? Why is this important?" It's a bit fatalistic (and honestly bordering on nihilistic) when you begin to absentmindedly question your own major. Of course I can justify it with logic, but who wants to use reason?

Why can't I sit in my disbelief, mouth agape, wondering if this is real? It seems preposterous that I could be in ninety-degree heat in only a week, especially as I notice how cold my feet are right now.

But it's true. Soon I'll be in a very different place and perhaps my feet won't be as cold. I'll be in Nicaragua for an academic service-learning semester in less than a week when this is published, and I'm as concerned with the why of it as much as I'm ready to let the experience happen and

be present to the changing world around me.

I've been trying to understand the difference between last semester and this one for over the past few weeks. Last semester was hard: I admit that I started to burn out from taking too many credit hours. This semester won't be easier, just different. As a philosopher, I have to make the inevitable armchair comparison, too.

Last semester I was in the armchair, reading, thinking and writing. This semester I'm in the world, sweating it out and listening to what people have to say.

But that doesn't seem right either. Last semester I learned quite a bit from the people around me, especially in the Writing Center,

*Newswire* and in my classes. At the same time, this semester feels right to ask the philosophical questions.

What is the life that sustains us? How is this surreal experience real?

I don't pretend to have answers, but I've got plenty of thinking to do while I'm out in the world, out of the Xavier bubble.

As I prepare to leave, I look at everything that I'm foregoing to be away for a semester. This semester the philosophy department is offering an impressive array of electives.

I would love to have the opportunity to report on the University's budget crisis, especially considering the number of adjunct professors we have, the ratio of administrators to professors and the strangled library budget (Read: Someone should write about these).

Of course, I would also like to

see the removal of Alter Hall and the beginning of new construction, but I doubt I'll miss that

be.

I was asked to write a farewell column, so goodbyes are certainly

**"*Newswire* has been a good experience for me this past semester. For those of you who read, thank you; we try to produce good news — I promise."**

**Taylor Fulkerson, Columnist**

one.

*Newswire* has been a good experience for me this past semester. For those of you who read, thank you; we try to produce good news — I promise. I have no doubt that the writers and editors will produce equally engaging stories and content this semester, especially since I won't be in the office on Monday and Tuesday nights to annoy our editorial staff.

And I'm sure the copy desk won't miss my Oxford commas.

Yes, it seems very odd to even be writing this column. It doesn't feel like that last bit I'll write for *Newswire* for a semester, but it will

will graduate soon after I return; to the Writing Center and *Newswire*, where I've been happy to work with the wonderful tutors, receptionists, editors and writers there; to my professors, who have guided me; and God willing, to Alter Hall. (Seriously, when is that supposed to happen?)

At the same time, this column feels like a greeting:

Managua, Nicaragua. It really does roll off the tongue nicely, whether you butcher the pronunciation or not.

*Y Eulalia rie, rie, rie...*



**TAYLOR FULKERSON**  
*Columnist*



# Midseason woes for men’s basketball

BY SABRINA BROWN  
*Sports Editor*

The Musketeers are currently facing their longest losing streak since the 1999-2000 season, totaling four games thus far. In addition to those four straight losses, they have lost five of their last six games, including the Crosstown Classic, often a certain victory for Xavier in recent years.



Newswire photo by Jack Hatterschide

Redshirt sophomore Justin Martin has started each of the twelve games he has played in this season.

Fortunately, Xavier has historically been a team that’s proven it knows how to turn a season around. The key to this turnaround may well be increased production from redshirt sophomore Justin Martin. Martin suffered a concussion in the Musketeers’ overtime loss to Vanderbilt and missed the following game against Kent State as well.

Martin had scored in double figures in Xavier’s first eight games and was averaging 12.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game before returning to play against Cincinnati. Since his return, he has only scored six points. As Xavier’s primary struggles have been offensive, getting Martin back to regularly contributing will be a key for this faltering Xavier team. Contributing to the Musketeers’ offensive struggles was their poor free throw shooting.



Newswire photo by Jack Hatterschide

Freshman guard Semaj Christon curenly averages 13.4 points, 4.8 assists and 2.1 rebounds per game for the Xavier Musketeers.

While this problem improved in the game against Wake Forest, Xavier is shooting at 67.5 percent from the charity stripe. While most of the team shoots at around 70 percent, junior forwards Erik Stenger and Isaiah Philmore are averaging 26.7 and 57.9 percent respectively, and freshman guard

Semaj Christon is shooting 62.3 percent from the line. With the Atlantic 10 in arguably one of its best years, the Musketeers have many opportunities to turn their season around. As Xavier fans well know, the Musketeers may be down, but they’re certainly not out.

# Swimming looks for continued success

BY KYLE ISAACS  
*Asst. Sports Editor*

Before the end of the fall semester, the Xavier men’s and women’s swimming teams hit the pool to start their seasons, which continue until the middle of the spring semester. In late November and early December, a few members from both the men’s and women’s teams headed to Austin, Texas for the AT&T Winter Nationals, a prominent swimming event that featured some Olympic swimmers.

Prior to the Nationals meet in Texas, both teams competed in the Magnus Cup Invitational before Thanksgiving Break. The men’s team finished second in the invitational in Cleveland while the women’s team placed third. The Musketeers had impressive showings for both teams, evidenced by sophomore Carolyn Stewart setting an invitational record in the 50 meter backstroke with a time of 26.80.

Freshman Mackenna Rife finished the 1650 meter freestyle in 17:10.82 while men’s senior Landon Graham secured a second-place finish in the 200 meter butterfly. In total, Xavier sent four swimmers to compete at the Winter Nationals last month. For the men, senior Sam Conchuratt, junior Chad Thompson and freshman Knox Hitt each swam at the event. Stewart was the only women’s swimmer to compete for the



Newswire photo by Andrew Matsushita

Senior swimmer Landon Graham placed second in the 200-meter butterfly when the team competed in the Magnus Cup Invitational.

Musketeers. Conchuratt finished 48th out of 74 swimmers in the 200 meter individual medley with a time of 1:51.65. Fellow Musketeer Thompson touched the wall a few seconds later to finish 60th. Hitt raced in the 100 meter fly, coming in with a 51st place finish in a time of 50.97. Stewart’s best finish was her 61st-place finish in the 200 meter backstroke with a time of 2:08.57. Though the times were not enough to reach the medal

stand, each of the performances from Xavier’s swimmers would rank among the top times in the Atlantic 10 Conference. Following the Nationals meet in Texas, Conchuratt was honored by the conference, earning the A-10 Men’s Swimming and Diving Performer of the Week. Both teams return to the pool this Friday and Saturday with meets at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis (IUPUI) and Cleveland State.

## Coach Mack’s Tweet of the week



Head men’s basketball coach Chris Mack is considered one of the funniest tweeters in college basketball. @NewswireSports picked their favorite for the week.

@CoachChrisMack: Hit my mom with a text needing some info asap and she responds 8 hours later. She should have just mailed me her response.. #ponyexpress

Be sure to check out @xaviernewswire and @NewswireSports for all your latest Xavier news!

## Mixed results for women

BY TIM WILMES  
*Staff Writer*

The Xavier women’s basketball team struggled over Christmas break, compiling a 2-4 record since fall semester ended. The Musketeers began their break with a heavily contested game in Cintas Center against Wright State. Both teams battled back and forth, and Xavier looked to have an edge down the stretch. Despite a double-double from sophomore Lakeisha Crouch and 18 points from senior Amber Gray, the Musketeers ultimately lost 66-65, conceding a late scoring run to Wright State in the last two minutes of the game.

After the disappointing loss to the Wright State Raiders, Xavier bounced back with a 62-52 win at home against UNC-Wilmington a few days later. Crouch once again led the way for the Musketeers, recording another double-double. The Muskies dominated the rebounding battle, out-rebounding the Seahawks 53-34. Next, the women’s basketball team travelled to Bloomington to take on Indiana University. Xavier kept the game close throughout the contest and tied the Hoosiers with under three minutes to play, but the Muskies ultimately lost 66-55 after an IU scoring run of 11-3 in the last three minutes of the game. The key to the game for the Musketeers in this matchup proved to be their free throw shooting, as they went 15-27 from the line.

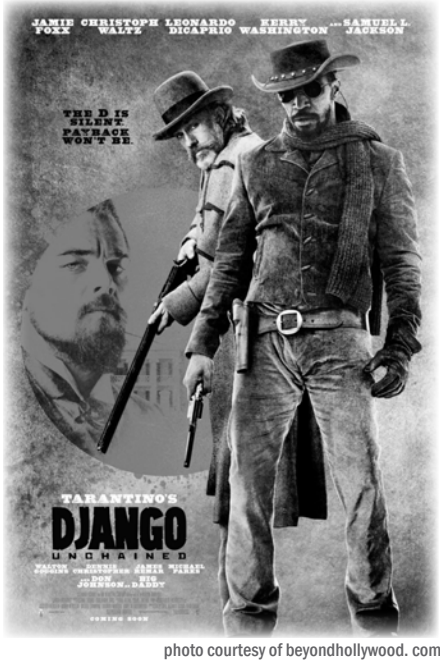
After a seven day break and a holiday in between, the Muskies traveled to the University of Virginia for the Cavalier Classic tournament. In their first game, Xavier defeated Northern Illinois 66-54, outrebounding the Huskies 36-23 and curing their free throw ailments by making 17-20 from the free throw line. Despite the good momentum going into the championship game, Xavier fell to the tournament host Virginia 54-45. Juniors Shatyra Hawkes and Ashley Wanninger were selected to the All-Tournament Team for their quality play over the weekend. After a trip back to Cintas Center, the Musketeers concluded their out-of-conference schedule on Saturday with a 68-62 loss to the Ohio University. The score was close the entire game, but the Bobcats were able to close the game out with late free throws. Senior Jessica Pachko recorded her third double-double of the season on Saturday while making her 100th career appearance. Pachko averaged 8.8 points per game and 6.5 rebounds per game over Christmas break, and now has 993 points in her career. The Xavier women’s basketball team begins Atlantic 10 play at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13 against Duquesne.



Tarantino Unchained: *Django*

GRANT VANCE  
Staff Writer

To say that Quentin Tarantino is one of the greatest directors of our day and age would be anything *but* an exaggeration. While his over-the-top violence and extensive, in-depth dialogue may not be every speculator’s cup of tea, his original scripts and creative directing are nothing to be overlooked. Before the end of 2012 his hits included: the *Kill Bill* volumes, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Inglorious Bastards*. All great films. After its Dec. 25 release



date, Tarantino’s *Django Unchained* has joined that highly praised list. *Django Unchained* is an anti-slavery film about a slave named Django Freeman (Jamie Foxx) joining forces with the sharp shooting, overly-witty bounty hunter Dr. King Shultz (Christoph Waltz). The two unlikely pals embark on a mission to save Django’s wife from the dastardly infamous Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio). The performances in this movie were predominantly all spectacular, enriching the film that much more. Christoph Waltz was the perfect Dr. Shultz and brought more to the character than ever thought possible. Waltz worked with Tarantino on *Inglorious Bastards*, also with a wonderful performance, but has not been in too many other American films otherwise. Hopefully that will change shortly. Jamie Foxx is certainly an up and comer, but will make a name for himself with this role. Ever since his role as Ray Charles in the film *Ray*, he has only had smaller parts in various films such as *Due Date*, *Law Abiding Citizen* and *Horrible Bosses*. Foxx also did an outstanding job and has been cast as Electro in the upcoming *Amazing Spiderman* sequel, and will certainly be

seen in more lead roles after his performance as the slaver-slayer Django Freeman. As what could’ve been expected, Leonardo DiCaprio played his character to his fullest potential. DiCaprio’s potential continues to impress, never seeming to disappoint in his roles. Like DiCaprio, Samuel L. Jackson’s servant slave Stephen lead up to expectations and impressed as usual. Tarantino has always brought out the best in Jackson and it was nice to see him taking a break from his duties as Nick Fury in the *Avenger* movies. *Django Unchained* has a lot of great films to compete against this year, but it is certainly one of the more memorable films of 2012, with Tarantino at the helm, and a nearly perfect cast. *Django Unchained* is a movie that should not go unseen. If you haven’t seen it already then hurry to find a theater near you. Just remember, the “D” is silent.

Newswire Rating:  
★★★★☆

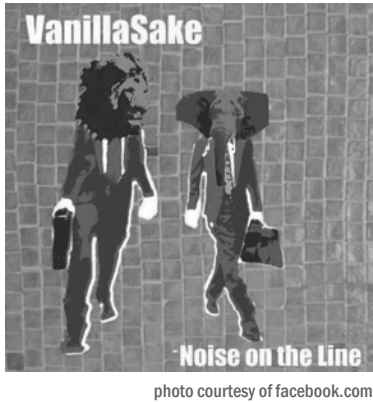
VanillaSake’s EP

TAYLOR FULKERSON  
Staff Writer

VanillaSake is, without a doubt, one of Xavier's foremost student bands. They have released their first EP titled *Noise on the Line* and it is an outstanding first release. The four band members are each talented in their own right. All four play in Xavier's Jazz Big Band in addition to their blossoming rock career. Brian Sheridan does vocals, keys and plays rhythm guitar, Sean Dunn plays lead guitar, Will "Shaggy" Clemens sets the rhythm on the drumkit and Anthony Notaro fills out their sound on bass. *Noise on the Line* is a solid six tracks that evokes the Black Keys, the Strokes, My Morning Jacket and a thick bluesy-rock sound in general. The release varies in pace and tone, but never bores the listener. There's plenty to chew on and it certainly invites repeat listens. Sheridan's slightly distorted vocals simply croon on tracks like "City of Sin" and "Anna Lee" and Dunn's riffs are big, heavily distorted and speak as much as the lyrics do at times. Notaro is clearly heard and takes a nice place close to the front of the mix, and Shaggy certainly puts the icing on the cake in some tracks. I initially did not anticipate this much from the band on a first re-

lease, as they often perform cover songs, but this EP has certainly surpassed any expectations I had. They were all very excited as they recorded at the tail end of last semester and this album accurately reflects that excitement. They have energy and passion for their craft, so they're worth your time. The band tends to play in the area, especially in Ludlow, Ky. We can only hope that we'll see more of them around campus. You can find them on Facebook and you can find their album at [vanillasake.bandcamp.com](http://vanillasake.bandcamp.com). I really can't praise the band enough. I'm impressed with this EP and hope to see a full album from them sometime in the future. Tracks to listen for are "Anna Lee" and "What Could Have Been."

Newswire Rating:  
★★★★☆



2012: Top 5 rock/alternative albums

KYLE GRIM  
Staff Writer

1. Jack White, *Blunderbuss*

Jack White’s first solo effort proves that he will be able to succeed without his biggest band, The White Stripes. Free from the natural limitations of The White Stripes, Jack White proves himself to be a masterful songwriter. The album explores different sounds, from driving garage rock to piano ballads to a little bit of country. The lyrics are among White’s best, describing his difficulties in finding love.

2. Tame Impala, *Lonerism*

Psychedelic pop hasn’t sounded this good since the Beatles and the early days of Pink Floyd. *Lonerism* is a sweeping psychedelic masterpiece, sounding like it was ripped right out of the late 60s. Tame Impala manages to add a little originality with their lyrics about, well... being alone. Tame Impala is a young band on the rise, and we will see even more great things from them in the future.

3. Andrew Bird, *Break It Yourself*

The first of two albums this year from Andrew Bird, *Break It Yourself* is folk rock at its fin-

est. Bird’s trademark whistling and fiddle-playing are as evident as ever, giving each song his own personal touch.

4. Grizzly Bear, *Shields*

After a three year hiatus, Grizzly Bear returned in 2012 with their best album, *Shields*. While not as accessible as their previous work, the band manages to find a good balance between pop and experimental. Their trademark vocal harmonies are still present throughout the album, giving the album that magical feeling we have come to expect from Grizzly Bear.

5. Fun, *Some Nights*

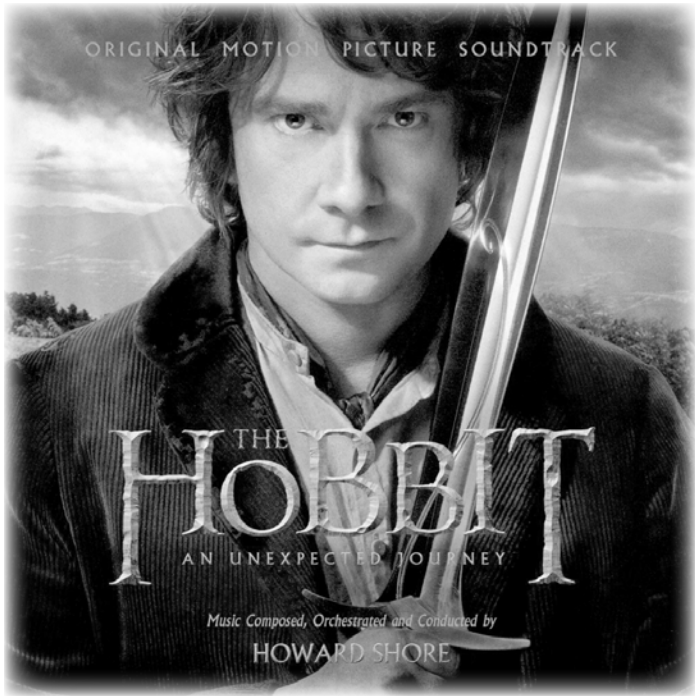
Fun rose from obscurity into stardom with 2012’s *Some Nights*. Most listeners will quickly recognize the album’s two hit singles, “Some Nights” and “We are Young,” but the album contains a ton of hidden gems that are slightly weird yet enjoyable. The band deserves its newfound praise and acclaim.

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The *Hobbit* review: background crutched

PATRICK PHILLIPS  
Staff Writer

This past Christmas season featured the release of the highly anticipated prequel to *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. After so much anticipation, Peter Jackson’s *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is a fine picture. *An Unexpected Journey* tells the story of Bilbo Baggins as he ventures with a group of dwarves to retake their fallen kingdom of Erebor. Led by Thorin Oakenshield, the group must outsmart trolls, traverse mountain passes and escape orcs and goblins at every turn. Fans of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy will appreciate the film as it revisits many locations and characters from the previous films such as Frodo, Gandalf and Saruman. The battle scenes in the film are deliciously vicious and entertaining, living up to Jackson’s predecessors. Strong performances from Ian McKellen as Gandalf, Martin Freeman as Bilbo and Richard Armitage as Thorin bring life to Tolkien’s prequel. Excellent CGI work is done on the character Gollum, making the integral scene of Bilbo’s acquiring the One Ring the most impactful in the film. *An Unexpected Journey* is the first installment of a three-part movie series, based on J.R.R. Tolkien’s fantasy novel *The Hobbit*. This tactic worked in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, however, the book



on which Peter Jackson’s new trilogy is based is the shortest of *The Lord of the Ring* books. That means there is a lot more fluff packed into these three movies. Background is the crutch of this film. The film is just under three hours long. At times, it feels as though Jackson is deliberately fitting as much detail as he can in order to save room for two more films, and some could easily be adjusted or taken out. He also did this in the rest of his *Lord of the Rings* films. For instance, as enjoyable as Radagast was in the film, his presence adds an additional twenty minutes to the film that did not even exist in the original text. I appreciate Jackson’s attempt to bring light to characters

he chose not to in his earlier films, the amount of fluff in the film becomes hard to get through. While buffered by its length, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is a delightful foundation for what is to come for the rest of the story. Fans of *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy will enjoy the film. On its own, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* is an above-average film.

Newswire Rating:  
★★★★☆



# Get organized for the new semester!



Welcome back from Christmas break! It's time to begin a new semester, and you know what that means—it's time to get organized. As a second semester senior, I feel like I've mastered this skill pretty well. So, to all you freshmen out there, listen up—you're about to get some great organization tips.

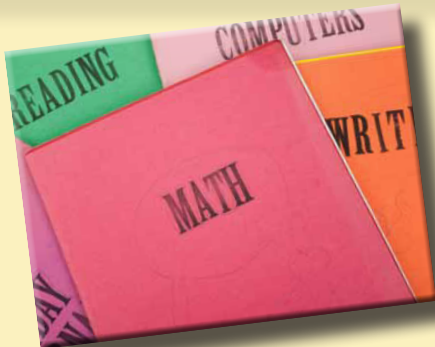
Write all assignments and due dates in your planner. This is probably my favorite part of a new semester—getting all the new syllabi and textbooks (I know, I'm weird). But it's extremely helpful. Once you've written down all your assignments for the semester, you don't have to worry about flipping through syllabi for the rest of the year. How great is that? I also like to highlight assignments based on what they are (tests in yellow, papers in pink, etc.).



Take time for yourself. Setting aside some personal time is important if you want to stay sane, stress less and accomplish all your tasks this semester. This time can be used however you want - hanging out with friends, watching TV, taking a nap - whatever. If you take your mind off school for a while and focus on something you enjoy, the semester will be a lot less stressful.

Make a schedule and stick to it. One of the things I love about school is the consistency. I always have a schedule, and from week to week, I maintain a similar schedule. Block out time for homework, class, fitness and relaxing and then maintain that plan (for the most part). This way, you will always get your work done and have time to yourself (so you don't go crazy!).

Label all notebooks, folders and binders. Also, you could take this a step further and subdivide your binders with dividers. I love doing this because I always know where to look for notes and I rarely lose class papers. Trust me, your teachers will be happy about that.



Make to-do lists. I make a to-do list every day, and it really helps me to accomplish all of my homework and extracurricular activities. Depending on how much work I have, I may even assign times to the task. For example, a typical list for me might look like:

8 a.m.: workout with Miranda  
9 a.m.: shower and prep for class  
10-11:15 a.m.: class  
11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: read *Jane Eyre*

...and so on. Making a list doesn't have to be extremely detailed, because it is meant to be a guide to keep you on task. However, I do find assigning times to the tasks helps immensely when you want to have time to do other things.



I hope these tips will help you maintain a stress-free (or at least less stressful) semester. The more organized you are, the easier it will be to accomplish your tasks and have time to nap (which we all know is important). Now, get out there and get organized!

By RACHAEL HARRIS  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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